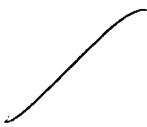


B. Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. A listing of all claims is provided.

1-18. (Cancelled) 

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19. (Previously Presented) An optical element having a film on its surface, said film comprising at least one layer of silica containing fluorine, wherein a refractive index of the layer or layers of silica for F<sub>2</sub> laser light is 1.60 to 1.80.

20. (Previously Presented) The optical element according to claim 19, wherein said film further comprises a layer of a material selected from the group consisting of MgF<sub>2</sub>, LiF, and Na<sub>3</sub>AlF<sub>6</sub>.

21. (Previously Presented) The optical element according to claim 19, wherein said element is comprised of fluorite.

[22. (Cancelled)]

23. (Previously Presented) The optical element according to claim 19, wherein said film is an antireflection coating.

24-25. (Cancelled) 